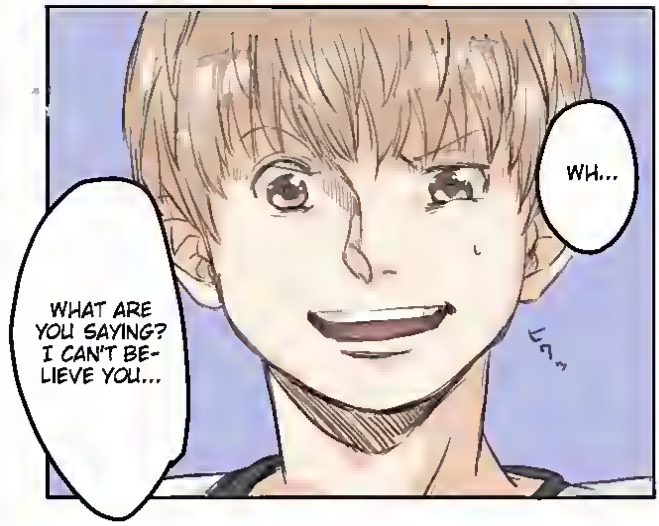
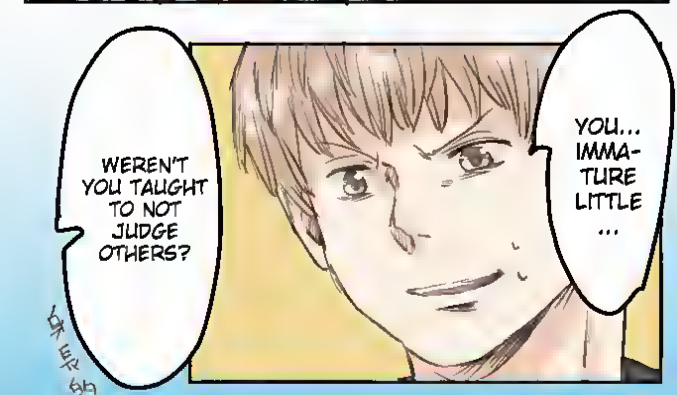
Koi Inu

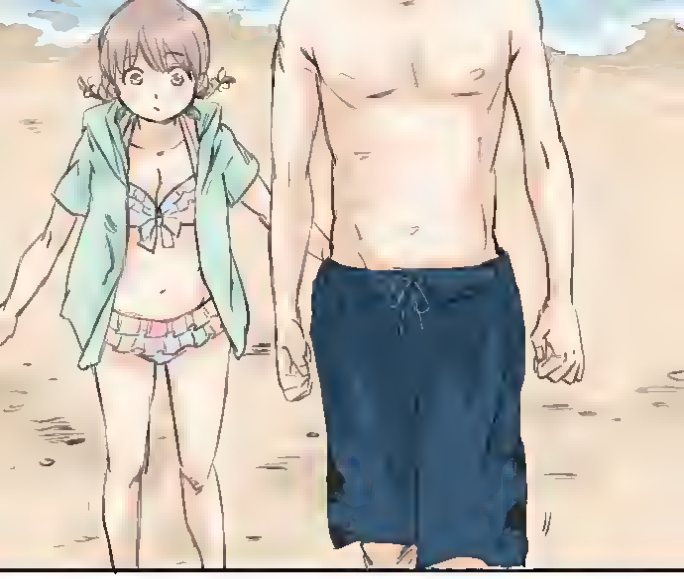
Chapter 20: Honomi's Confession

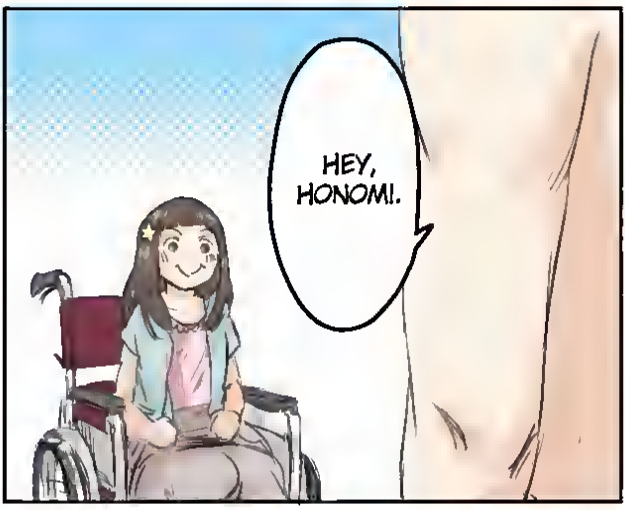

WH...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...

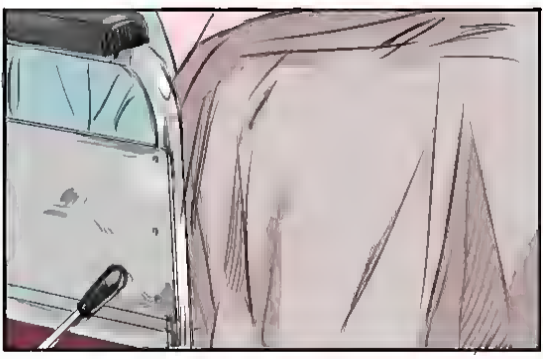
YOU'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, REMEMBER?! YOU CAN'T BE HIS GIRLFRIEND.
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING ANNOYING HERE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SAYING "I LIKE YOU" TO SOMEONE THAT I LIKE?

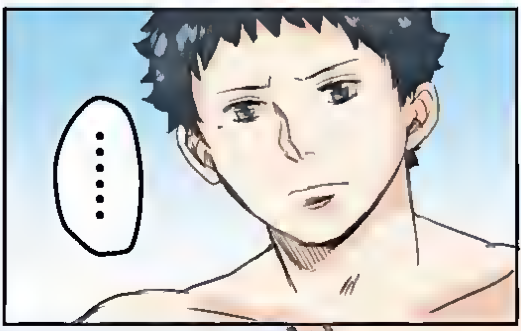

YOU... IMMATURE LITTLE ...
WEREN'T YOU TAUGHT TO NOT JUDGE OTHERS?

IGARASH!!




HEY, HONOMI.

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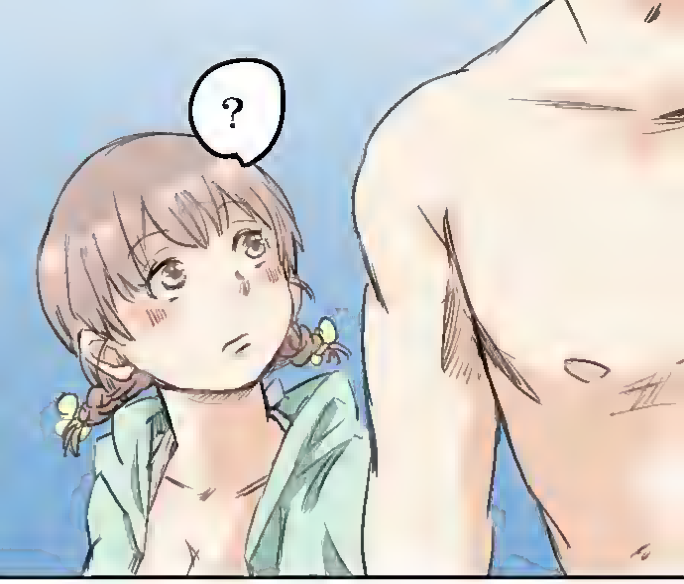
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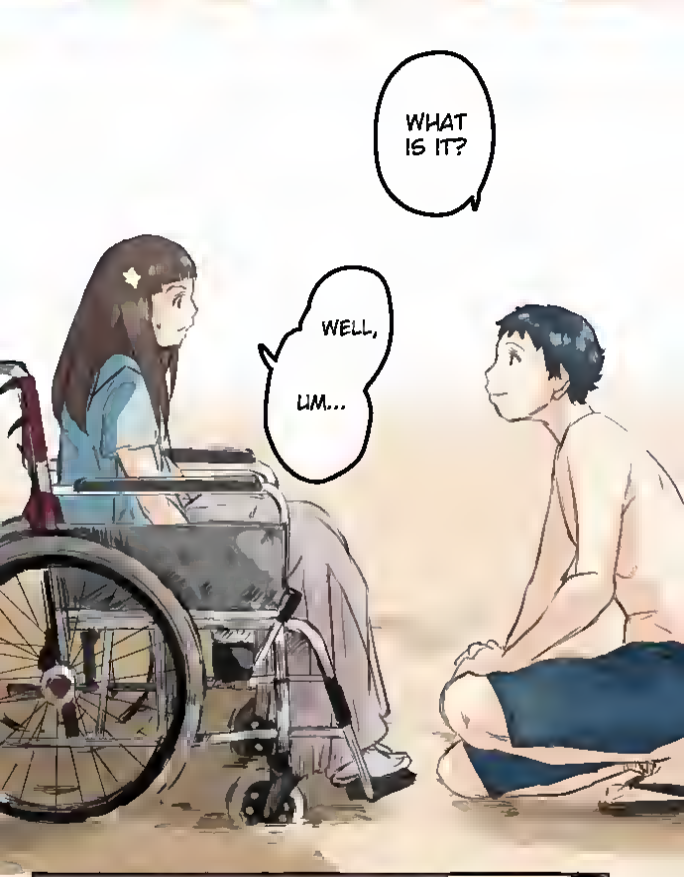
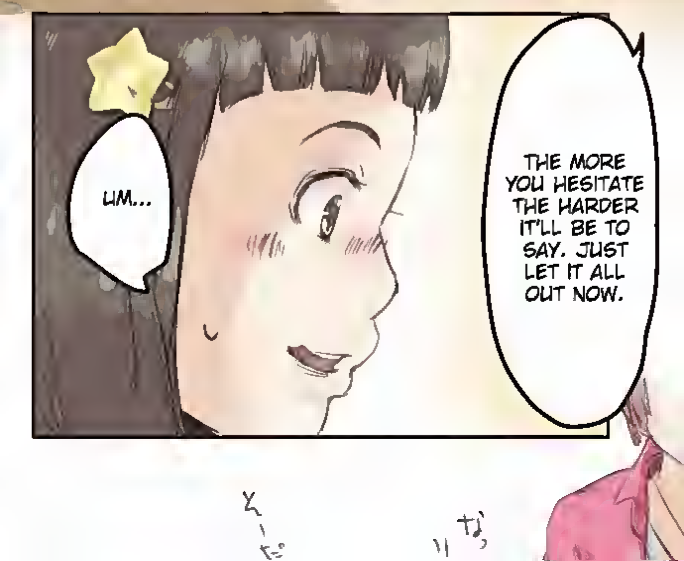
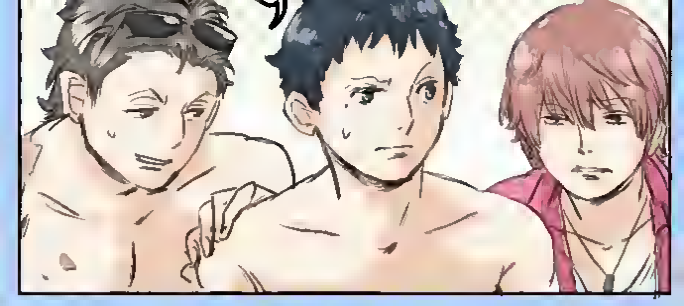

WHAT IS IT?
WELL, UM...


UM...
THE MORE YOU HESITATE THE HARDER IT'LL BE TO SAY. JUST LET IT ALL OUT NOW.

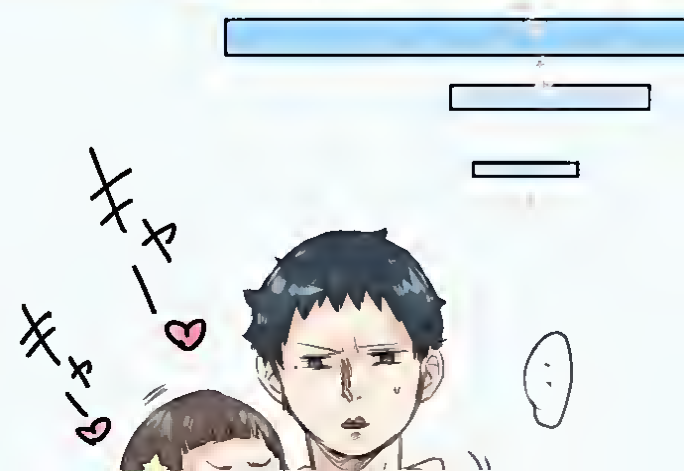
IGARASHI!
?
I LIKE YOU A LOT!
PLEASE BE MY BOYFRIEND JUST FOR TODAY!

EH ...
IF...
IF IT'S JUST ONE DAY, WOULD THAT BE ALRIGHT WITH YOU?
OH MY GOD I SAID IT.
MAYBE IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL?
ER, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL I MEAN,
HOW DO I PUT IT...
IT'S UH...
I...
OY, OY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE HER A SERIOUS RESPONSE, Y'KNOW?
IT'S ONLY FOR ONE DAY, NO BIG DEAL.
THE MOST YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IS JUST HOLD HANDS WITH HER.

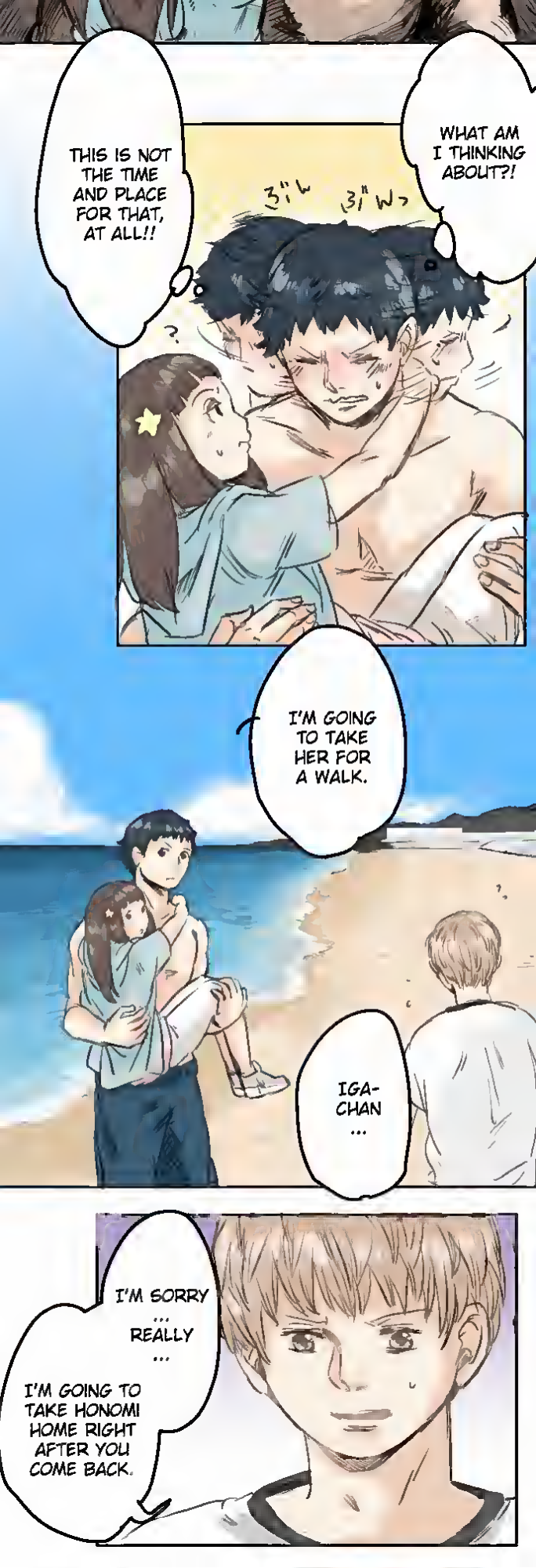


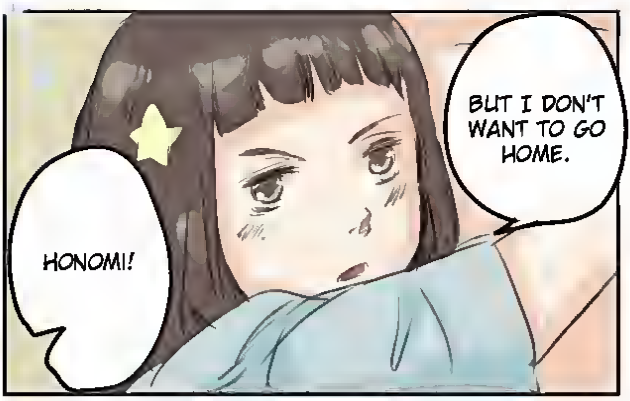
I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO
.....

ALRIGHT, HONOMI!


キャー♡
キャー♡

FINALLY
IT'S TRUE.
RIGHT, KOUJI?
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE HER DAD THAN HER BOYFRIEND.
IGA-CHAN ...
IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO HER, I CAN CALL THE POLICE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...
I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANY-THING.
BUT HONOMI, CAN YOU TELL ME
WHY YOU WANT A BOY-FRIEND?
ER, WELL
THERE ARE JUST SOME THINGS YOU CAN ONLY DO WHEN YOU'RE DATING THE PERSON YOU LIKE.
AHH ♡
NOT ... THERE
AH
AH
THINGS ...
I WANT TO DO WITH THE PERSON I LIKE...!
OY, EARTH TO IGARASHI. HE'S GONE INTO SHOCK. THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EMERGENCY.


WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT?!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THAT, AT ALL!!
3"L
3"W
I'M GOING TO TAKE HER FOR A WALK.
IGA-CHAN ...
I'M SORRY ... REALLY ...
I'M GOING TO TAKE HONOMI HOME RIGHT AFTER YOU COME BACK.


HONOMI!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT...

IT WON'T BE LONG,
I UNDER-STAND.

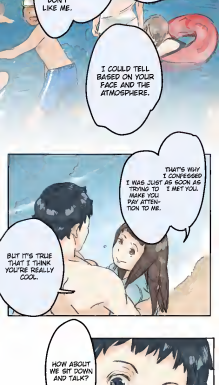
BY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER, NO LESS.
AW, IT LOOKS LIKE IGARASHI GOT TAKEN AWAY.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS? IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE...
IS THAT SO?
IF HONOMI WAS OLDER, I WONDER, WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN HER AND IGARASHI?
IF IT'S FINE BY YOU,
THEN I WON'T SAY ANY MORE.
WHETHER THEY'LL ADMIT IT OR NOT, I BET THOSE GIRLS PROBABLY SPEND HALF THEIR LIVES MAINTAINING THEIR FIGURES!
IGARASHI

HM?

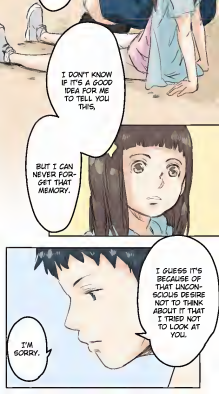
YOU DISLIKE ME, DON'T YOU?

IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU I WOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.
I THINK YOU'RE CUTE.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

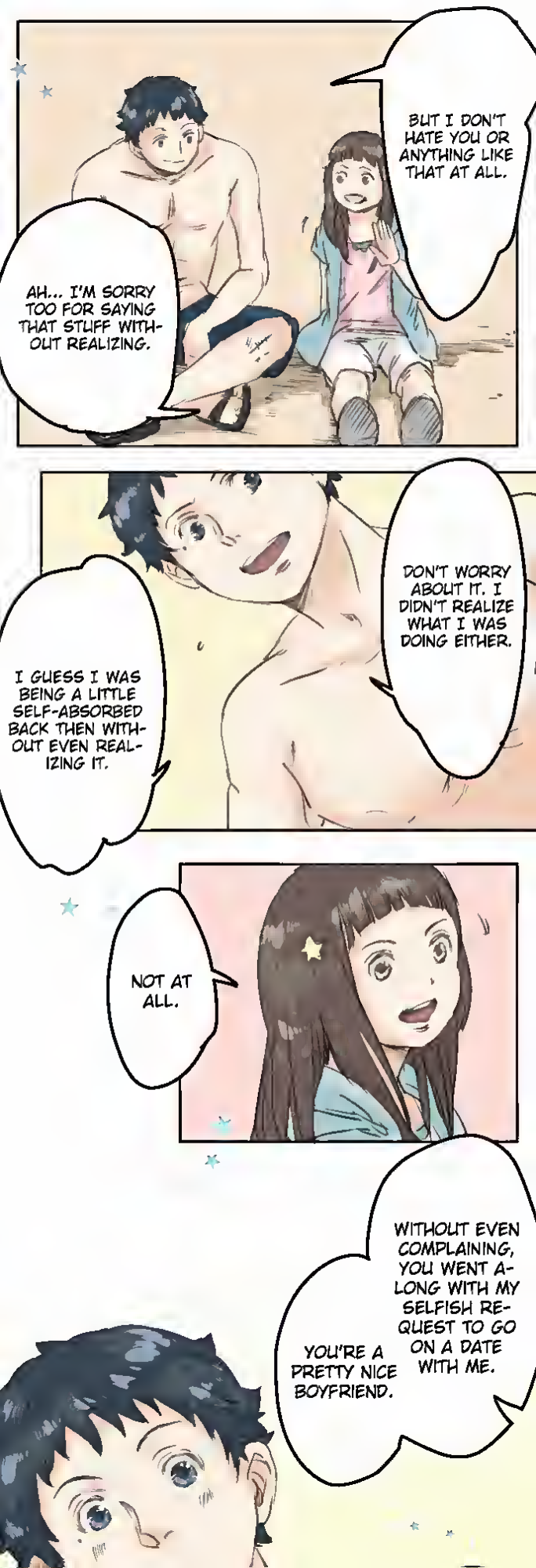

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME. EVER SINCE I ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL, I STARTED BECOMING VERY OBSERVANT.
SO I NOTICED YOU WERE AVOIDING ME,
AND REALIZED YOU PROBABLY DON'T LIKE ME.
I COULD TELL BASED ON YOUR FACE AND THE ATMOSPHERE.

THAT'S WHY I CONFESSED TRYING TO MAKE YOU PAY ATTENTION TO ME.
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I THINK YOU'RE REALLY COOL.

HOW ABOUT WE SIT DOWN AND TALK?

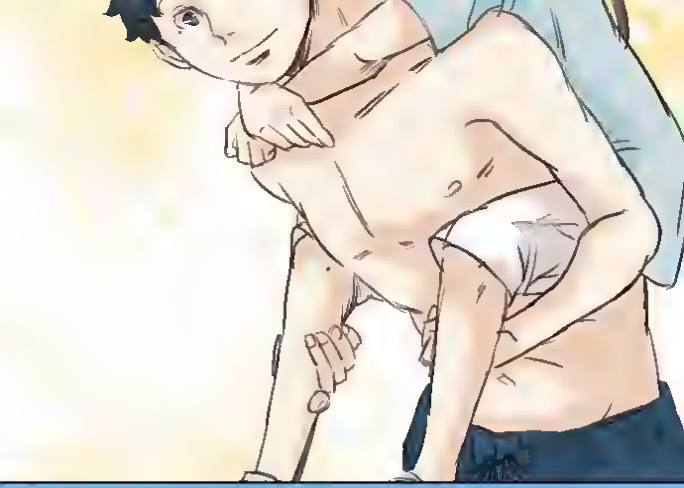

SEE...I USED TO BE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM.
LAST YEAR WAS THE NATIONALS TOURNAMENT, BUT THINGS SUDDENLY TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE.
I INJURED MY LEG AND WOUND UP IN A WHEELCHAIR.
IT WAS JUST ONCE, THOUGH.
I HAD NO IDEA.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO TELL YOU THIS.
BUT I CAN NEVER FORGET THAT MEMORY.

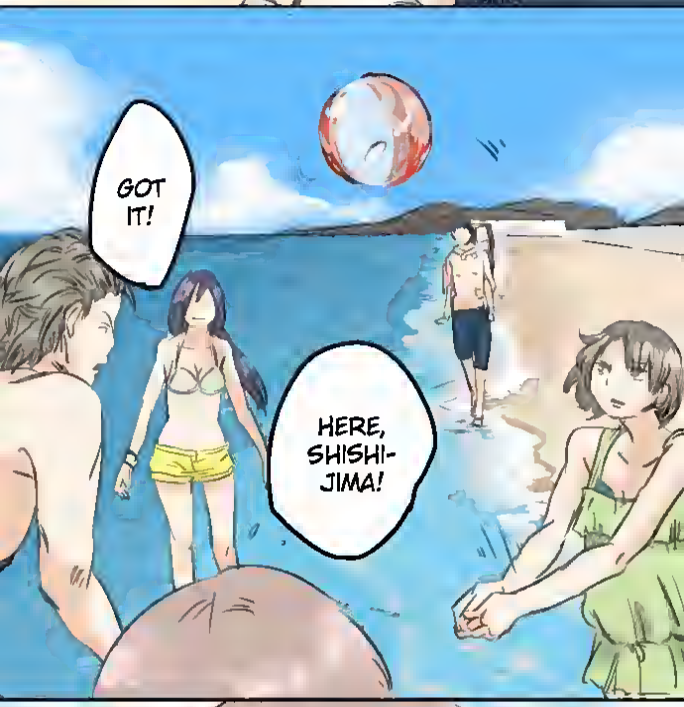
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT UNCONSCIOUS DESIRE NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT THAT I TRIED NOT TO LOOK AT YOU.
I'M SORRY.


BUT I DON'T HATE YOU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL.
AH... I'M SORRY TOO FOR SAYING THAT STUFF WITHOUT REALIZING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT I WAS DOING EITHER.
I GUESS I WAS BEING A LITTLE SELF-ABSORBED BACK THEN WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
NOT AT ALL.
WITHOUT EVEN COMPLAINING, YOU WENT ALONG WITH MY SELFISH REQUEST TO GO ON A DATE WITH ME.
YOU'RE A PRETTY NICE BOYFRIEND.

ポーン
WELL WELL WELL... LOOK AT SHISHI-CHAN, MERRILY PLAYING HIS HEART OUT.
OY! YOU GUYS COME PLAY TOO!

GO PLAY. YOU NEED TO FORGET YOUR TROUBLES AND HAVE FUN EVERY NOW AND THEN.
BROTHER.
WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE SITTING HERE READING A BOOK.
I'M HAVING FUN WHILE DOING IT, NOT THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE READING MANGA WHILE LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF WAVES CRASHING AGAINST THE SAND.
SERIOUSLY?
SERIOUSLY.
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO GO HAVE FUN.
I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING OF UNEASE.
YOU'RE WORRIED.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED THAT MUCH ABOUT UR SISTER.
IT'S NOT KNOWN THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
IT'S IGARASHI.




GOT IT!
HERE, SHISHI-JIMA!

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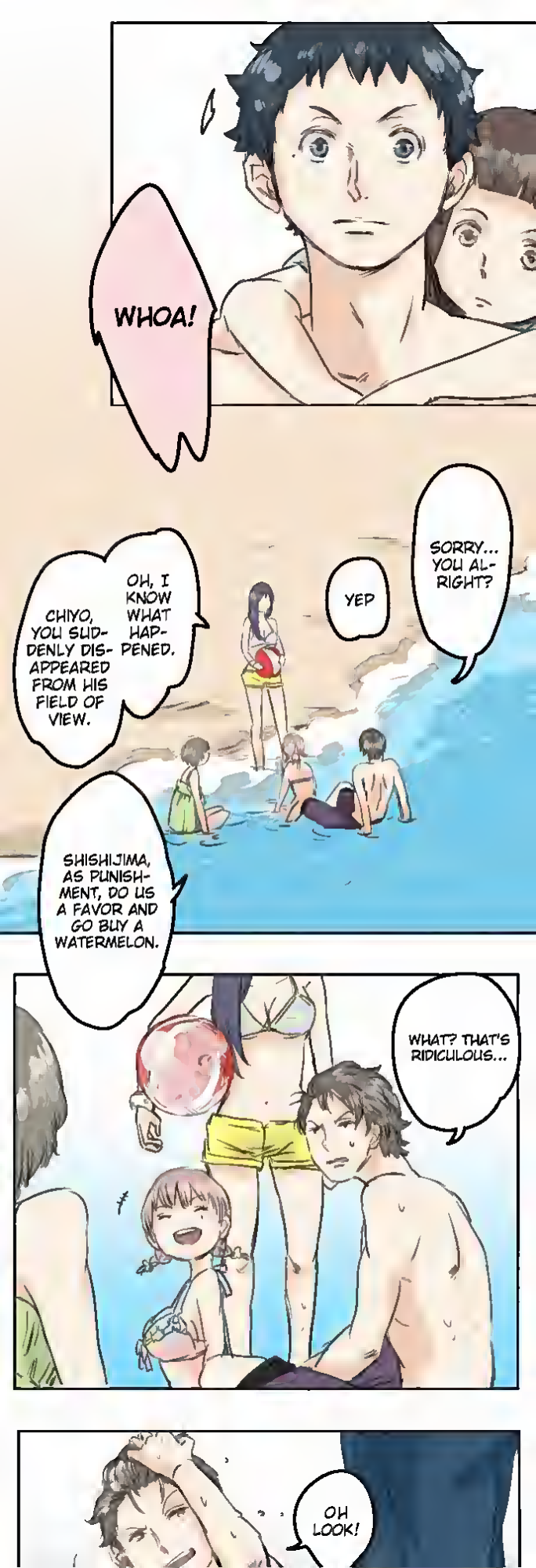
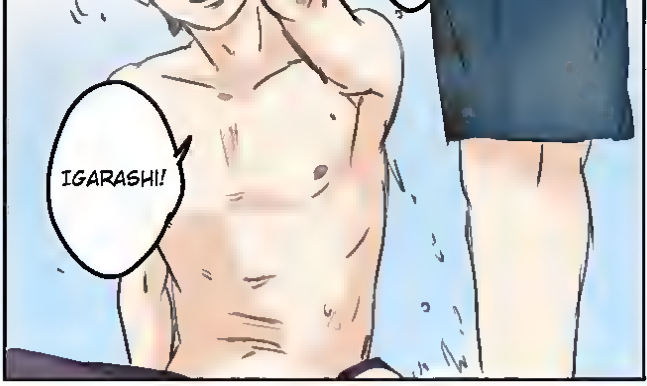
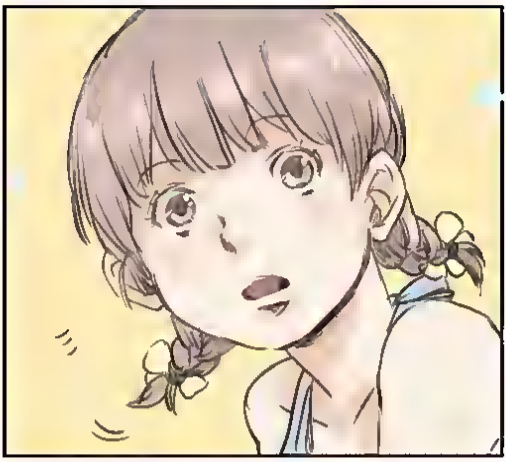
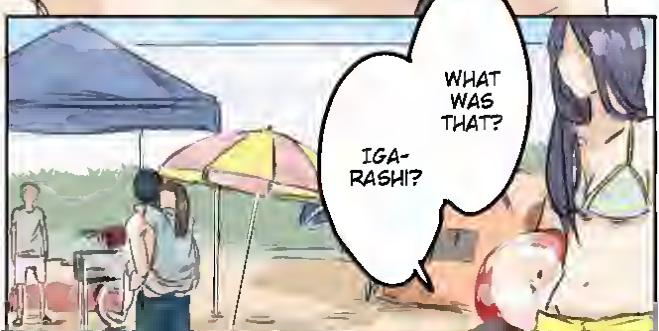
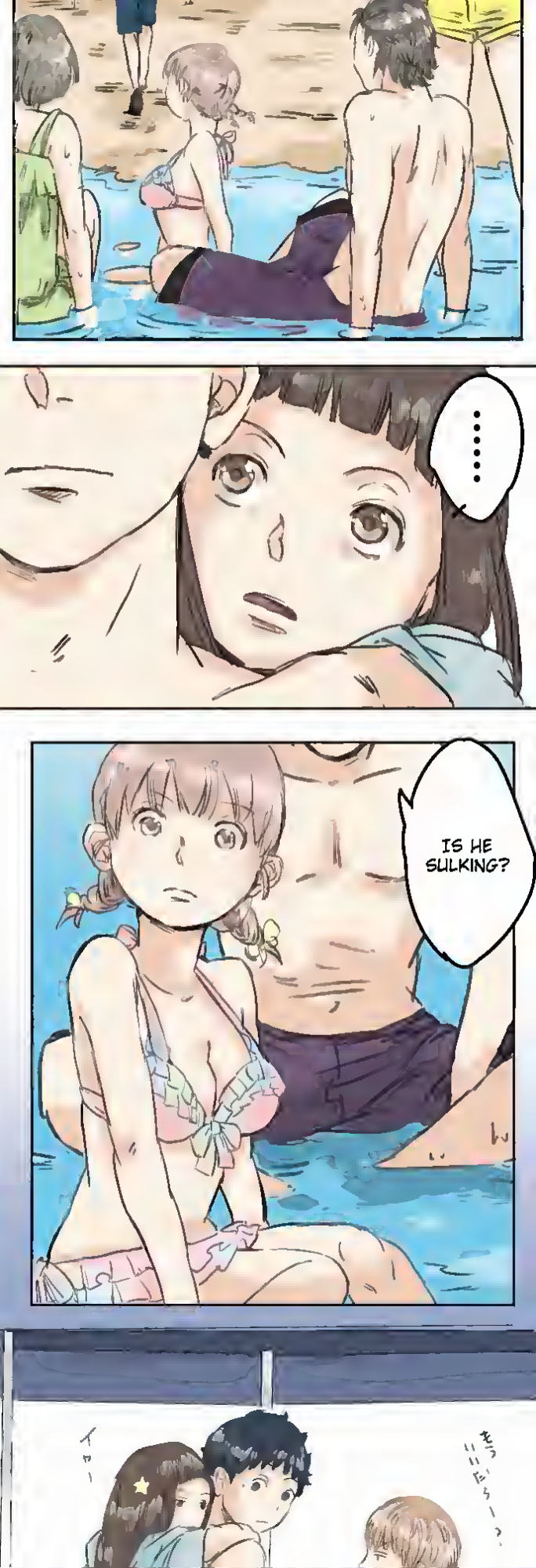

WHOA!
SORRY... YOU ALRIGHT?
YEP
OH, I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
CHIYO, YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED FROM HIS FIELD OF VIEW.
SHISHIJIMA, AS PUNISHMENT, DO US A FAVOR AND GO BUY A WATERMELON.
WHAT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS...
OH LOOK!


IGARASHI!

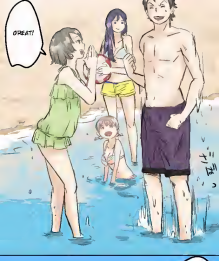


MUST BE FUN,
COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.


WHAT WAS THAT?
IGA-RASHI?


……
IS HE SULKING?
イヤー
もう!!!ばかーっ。

IF HONOMI WAS OLDER, I WONDER, WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN HER AND IGARASHI?
ALRIGHT! WATER-MELON!
I'M GOING TO GO BUY IT NOW!
WHAT A GENTLEMAN.


GREAT!

WE'LL BE BACK SOON. WATCH OUR STUFF FOR US.
NO PROBLEM!

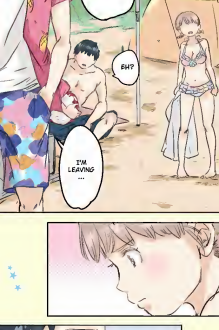
I WANTED TO DO WITH THEM TO BUY IT TOGAWA...

WHAT THE!?
ばさっ

WHAT WAS THAT ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS? WE CAN JUST WASH IT, RIGHT?
UGH. I DON'T WANT TO...

GLARE
.....
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE...
HE'S STILL ANNOYED!

DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT!
ぼすっ
THAT WAS SUR-PRISING!


LOOK HERE, YOU!!
THAT WAS FOR WHAT YOU DID EARLIER, OKAY!?

AH ...
MAY-BE I

SHOULD GO CLEAN THE GRILL AFTER ALL. WE HAVEN'T USED IT YET, SO...

WATCH MY STUFF FOR ME.
EH?
I'M LEAVING ...

I'M ...
I'M SORRY ...
I GOT ALL WORKED UP.
THIS SUCKS I ENDED UP ACTING IMMATURE, LIKE ALWAYS...
.....
WHAT ...
STUPID ...
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL.
I ENDED UP COMING TO THE BEACH,
AND YET YOU SPEND THE WHOLE TIME GOING OFF SOMEWHERE WITH HONOMI, AND MAKING WEIRD FACES AT ME.
DOING THAT ...
ISN'T FUN AT ALL!
to be continued...

THE CAROLUS MENGUS TRANSLATION GROUP
tl
ts/cl